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OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS FUNDS FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Recommended by the Executive Director

Global project (GLO/73/P23)

World Fertility Survey
(Completion and Assessment)

Estimated UNFPA contribution:	$2 000 000
Duration:	Two years: July 1982-June 1984
Estimated starting date:	Ongoing project
Executing agency:	International Statistical Institute (ISI)

*The previous UNFPA project and programme recommendations were issued under the symbols DP/25/Add. 1-6 and DP/FPA/1/Add. 1-10 through DP/FPA/12/Add. 1-17.

82-07013

I. Summary

1. Since 1974 the Governing Council, at four previous sessions, has approved the Executive Director's recommendations [1/] for UNFPA assistance to the World Fertility Survey (WFS) totalling $12,013,505. In June 1974, at its eighteenth session, the Governing Council approved UNFPA assistance in the amount of $4,507,505 for a three-year period [2/]. In January 1977, at its twenty-third session, the Council approved in principle the extension of the project for the five-year period July 1977 through June 1982, and approved assistance in the amount of $2,348,000 for the first two years of this five-year period (July 1977 through June 1979) [3/]. In June 1979, at its twenty-sixth session, the Council approved UNFPA assistance in the amount of $3,658,000 for the two-year period July 1979 through June 1981, with the understanding that the Council would be notified at its twenty-eighth session of the allocation for the period July 1981 through June 1982 [4/]. In June 1981, at its twenty-eighth session, the Council approved UNFPA assistance in the amount of $1,500,000 for the period July 1981 through June 1982, subject to the review and reassessment of the UNFPA programme for the period 1982-1985 [5/].

2. The Executive Director is now presenting to the Council for its approval a proposal for assistance in the amount of $2,000,000 for the two-year period July 1982 through June 1984 for the completion and assessment phase of the World Fertility Survey.

1/ See DP/FPA/1/Add.9 and Corr. 1, DP/FPA/6/Add.6, DP/FPA/10/Add.26 and DP/FPA/12/Add.1.
2/ UNDP Governing Council decision 74/29.
3/ UNDP Governing Council decision 77/5.
4/ UNDP Governing Council decision 79/28, para.2.
5/ UNDP Governing Council decision 81/7, II, para.1.

II. Background

3. The WFS project is being executed by the International Statistical Institute, through a project staff in a central organization located in London. Funding has come primarily from the United States Agency for International Development (U.S. AID) and UNFPA, with additional assistance from the Canadian International Development Research Centre, the Government of France, the Government of the Netherlands and the Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

4. The WFS project was originally conceived as a five-year programme with a pre-project phase lasting from January to June 1972 to assess the feasibility of the programme; a project development phase from mid-1972 to mid-1974 to set up the programme; and an implementation phase from 1974-1977 to undertake the country surveys, analyse the data collected and publish the findings. In January 1977, the programme was extended for five years, based on the intentions of the governments of a number of developing countries to participate after 1977, and on the fact that if the WFS were to have terminated at the end of the originally-envisaged final phase, not only would African country participation be at a minimum, but a considerable number of surveys to be initiated by mid-1977 could not be carried out. At its twenty-eighth session, the Governing Council approved in principle the extension of the WFS project to June 1983 on the understanding that UNFPA would submit a new project proposal at the twenty-ninth session.

5. This new proposal is meant to enable the WFS to complete the activities to which it is currently committed in a satisfactory manner, to prepare an assessment of its achievements and to terminate the project by the end of June 1984.

III. Review of project progress

A. Status of work

6. During 1981, no new country surveys were added to the WFS programme. Work has continued according to the plan approved in principle by the Governing Council at its twenty-eighth session on the surveys already begun. This has meant a continuing shift of emphasis from data collection towards data processing and analysis activities. Of the 42 developing countries participating in the WFS programme as of the end of 1981, two countries (Benin and Nigeria) were at the field work stage, 11 were engaged in data processing and 29 had published their first country report. Of the 29 countries which have completed their first country report, 14 may be regarded as having completed the whole project; the remaining 15 are still actively engaged in analysis work. Thus, at the end of 1981, 28 developing countries were still active in the WFS project. Twenty developed countries have participated in the project and the majority have

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published findings from their own fertility surveys.

7. Two cross-national summaries were published in 1981 and two more will be published in 1982. Eight papers based on comparative results from WFS data were presented at various international meetings in 1981 such as seminars sponsored by the Committee on Comparative Analysis of Fertility of the IUSSP in Sao Paulo , Brazil in August, and Malaysia in December. Work continued during 1981 in compiling material in preparation for the thorough assessment of WFS experience, planned to be undertaken during 1982-1983.

8. WFS continues to provide data processing support for country survey operations by installing statistical data processing software packages, training local staff in the use of these packages and supporting local activities in systems design and programming.

B. Review of the programme

9. As reported to the Governing Council at its twenty-eighth session in 1981, U.S. AID and UNFPA jointly conducted an evaluation of the WFS programme. UNFPA endorsed most of the recommendations of the evaluation mission except those concerned with the future of the programme, upon which the Executive Director reserved his position particularly on the most important recommendation which was that WFS be funded through 1986 or 1987 to achieve more fully its original objectives. After full discussion with the WFS secretariat and the WFS Programme Steering Committee and with the two other principal donors, UNFPA has concluded that the basic objectives of the Survey can be satisfactorily achieved by mid-1984. WFS has accepted this conclusion and has drafted a proposal to the three donors which is based upon a schedule for completion of the project by mid-1984.

10. The present proposal of WFS for the completion and assessment of the programme by mid-1984 conforms to the recommendations of the evaluation report, the advice of the Programme Steering Committee and the list of priority activities of the Programme recommended by UNFPA at the Programme Steering Committee and presented to the Council at its twenty-eighth session (DP/FPA/12/Add.16, para. 18).

C. Financial review

11. UNFPA financial assistance to the central organization of WFS through June 1982, including the Governing Council-approved allocations and pre-project allocations and support of the WFS Conference in 1980, totals $13,506,000. Through September 1982, U.S. AID will have contributed $18,011,000 to the WFS central organization, and $1,776,000 for second-stage analysis of survey data. UNFPA has allocated $4,985,000 directly to governments for 24 country surveys; U.S. AID has provided $3,852,000 for 16 country surveys.

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Four country surveys have been supported by other donors. Of the 44 developing countries that joined the WFS programme, two (Burma and Chile) have withdrawn. Governments of developing countries have contributed approximately $6 million to the costs of their own country surveys.

12. UNFPA has also supported the WFS project by funding technical advisors specifically responsible for WFS matters within the United Nations Population Division in New York and in ESCAP (Bangkok) and CELADE (Santiago). This technical assistance ended in 1981. UNFPA is providing staff positions in ECE for coordination and comparative analysis of WFS type surveys in Europe. This assistance will cease at the end of 1982.

IV. Proposal for completion and assessment

13. WFS has presented to the three principal donors (U.S. AID, UNFPA and the Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom) a proposal for completion and assessment of the survey during 1982-1984 which includes the following activities:

A. Fieldwork, data processing and analysis

i. Completion of fieldwork and data processing for each survey.
ii. preparation and publication of First Country Report and Summary of findings for each survey and the organization of national meetings to disseminate and discuss the findings.
iii. Evaluation of the quality of the data of each survey in workshops.
iv. Completion or initiation of a minimum programme of second stage analysis, primarily at the country level and with country participation.
v. Continuation of a minimum programme of comparative analysis, in particular completion of a number of cross-national summaries.
vi. Organization of analysis workshops to assist countries in the analysis of specific types of module data.

B. Maintenance of the data archive

Continuation of work on maintenance of the data system, file standardisation and the like, continuation of the service to users, and planning for institutionalizing the archives after completion of the WFS project.

C. Assessment and revision

Assessment and revision of WFS methodology and instruments in consultation with other users of WFS data including the United Nations.

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14. This list of activities includes all those tasks given top priority in the submission to the Governing Council at its twenty-eighth session (DP/FPA/12/Add.16). The proposal gives highest priority to the completion of the current programme. Because of the decision to complete the project by mid-1984 WFS does not plan to provide advisory services to governments wishing to undertake new or repeat surveys. Any such services will require funding other than that to be provided under the proposal of WFS for completion and assessment.

15. The total cost for these activities for the period July 1982 through June 1984 is estimated by WFS as follows.

Jul/Dec 1982	Jan/June 1983	Jul/Dec 1983	Jan/June 1984
$1 793 000	$1 806 000	$1 655 000	$1 730 000

Of these total requirements, UNFPA proposes to provide $500,000 for the second half of 1982, $1 million for the year 1983 and $500,000 for the first half of 1984. The British Overseas Development Administration has announced a contribution to WFS of £250,000 for the fiscal year commencing April 1982. U.S. AID intends to prepare budgets for additional contributions to WFS through June 1984. At the February 1982 meeting of the WFS Programme Steering Committee, attended by the three principal donors, the WFS secretariat proposed several reductions in its work programme if sufficient funds were not available. These included eliminating two workshops from the programme; limiting the number of cross-national summaries; and reducing the amount of time spent on the assessment of certain aspects of data collection and data processing. The Programme Steering Committee approved this approach to the programme of work.

16. UNFPA believes that the proposal as presented is sound and, if the work plan is faithfully followed by WFS and topmost priority given to completion of all of the first-round surveys and the first country reports, the Survey project can be successfully completed by the end of June 1984.

V. Recommendations

17. The Executive Director recommends that, subject to availability of funds, the Governing Council:

(a) Approve UNFPA allocations to the World Fertility Survey project in the amounts of $500,000 for the period July-December 1982, $1,000,000 for 1983, and $500,000 for the period January-June 1984.

(b) Authorize the Executive Director to make the appropriate arrangements for the project with the International Statistical Institute for the period July 1982 through June 1984.